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Four Retire from Linfield

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Four retire from Linfield

Four longtime Linfield College faculty members have helped to shape students for the past three decades, and along the way, they have gained as much as they have given. Now, as professors emeriti, they share memories of the past and plans for the future upon their retirements.

Linda Farris, Professor of Education since 1974



Most memorable moment: Watching one of my former students, Dr. Mindy (Legard) Larson '95, interview for my job. She was fantastic and will be the new literacy professor at Linfield next year.

Favorite course: Literacy 1 and Literacy 2. Preparing teachers to teach children to read and write is the most exciting job anyone can have.

Changes in students: The students don't change. They always have been and always will be amazing.

Changes in teaching: The use of technology in our courses.

Title of final public lecture: "Improving Comprehension Through a Strategies Approach," Oregon Reading Association State Conference, February 2006.

Retirement reading list: Too many books to list.

Retirement plans/travel: Motorcycling on our Harley, scuba diving in Hawaii, and boating in the San Juan and Gulf Islands.

Richard Farris, Professor of Biology since 1974



Favorite campus hangout: My research lab in Murdock. Here I can lose myself in the wonder and mystery of life as I attempt to better understand what is happening in nature.

Changes in students: I feel the students today are every bit as talented and dedicated as when I came 32 years ago.

Title of final public lecture: "The Ecology of Meiofauna Within the Surf Grass *Phyllospadix* spp."

Retirement reading list: *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. I first read this in college and plan to reread it since I spend a lot of time on motorcycles going through the same thought processes.

Retirement plans: Half my time will be spent in Hawaii diving and hiking with friends and colleagues, and the other half will be spent in Washington with my family and on my boat.

John Hare, Professor of Biology since 1977

Most memorable moment: During my first year of teaching when I sent the entire environmental science class of 108 students out into the hallway and told them they couldn't come back in unless they agreed to my classroom conduct standards. Fortunately, it worked.

Favorite campus hangout: Occasional late Friday afternoons spent drinking carbonated beverages with senior faculty who mentored me in the ways of Linfield. It was invaluable training.

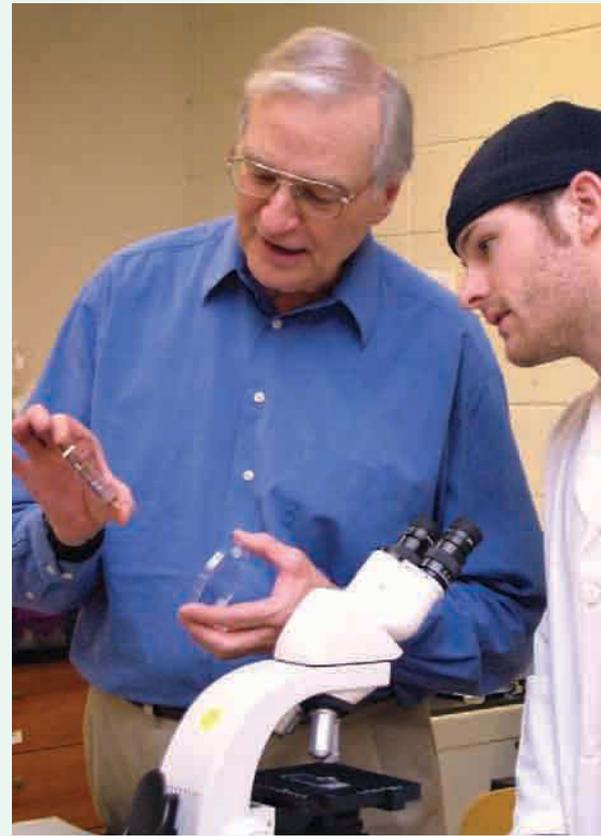
Learned from colleagues: More than I could list here. But most importantly, that it takes everybody to make Linfield work.

Travel plans: Cross-country train rides through the Copper Canyon (Mexico) and the Canadian Rockies, and a series of connected European train rides on the Eurostar (Chunnel) train, the French TGV, the Orient Express and the Glacier Express.

What I won't miss: Preparing and grading exams, committee meetings, enough other things to fill about a page and a half on a yellow legal pad.

Biggest surprise: That I would become a better teacher each year. That I would know more about how to do this job on my last day than at any time previously.

Best thing about Linfield: The students. I got to work with entering freshmen and watch them mature and progress over four years into graduating 22-year-olds ready to enter graduate or professional school.



Margaret Krausse, Professor of French since 1985



Favorite campus hangout: Nicholson Library, because of the lovely Austin Reading Room with fireplace and comfortable armchairs.

Learned from students and colleagues: Students over the past 20 years have taught me patience. My colleagues taught me that there is more than one way to do almost anything. Both have taught me humor.

Favorite course: My Inquiry Seminar "Paris in 1900." I designed the course around art, music and poetry in Paris before World War I.

Changes in students over the years: Twenty years ago, many students were from rural Oregon and sometimes the first in their families to go to college. In recent years, students have seemed less sheltered and more worldly.

Changes in teaching: In a word, technology. Ten years ago, it was possible not to know about Web-based teaching. Now, WebCt and other teaching platforms are used frequently in language classes.

Retirement reading list: Any Tony Hillerman mystery, *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie, *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi and books by Leila Sebbar and Azouz Begag.

Retirement plans: I plan to cook, bake and read food writers such as Patricia Wells and K Witherspoon. I'll walk, go to the gym, practice yoga and garden. I also hope to volunteer as a docent at the Portland Art Museum, giving tours to K-12 students.